S /382 cont./
SR agricultural, 27% work wholly at Thiès, and 31% divide
162 their activity between the city and the country, depending
369 on the season and the labor market.

S Thus, the decrease in the cultivable area has brought
SR about a decrease in the number of cultivators. But the None
241 is above all a man of the soil, a peasant. Even as a laborer, he will not give up his bit of land which will give him a harvest. Each evening upon his return from work, he will take up his iler (1) and go to cultivate his lougan of millet

S
SR
[412]

1. Hilaire or iler: implement par excellence of the Senegalese cultivator, made up of a metal blade in the shape of a heart fixed to a long handle.

S or groundnuts. And if he has an occupation that suits him in
SR the city and in addition personally owns good land? He will
241 hire the services of a navétane (2) to whom he will relinquish
369
427

2. Seasonal agricultural worker.

a portion of his land and to whom he will grant some free time for his personal crops. This navétane will work his fields, and, through this procedure, he will be able to sell or amass a considerable harvest at the end of the year.

S An examination of the occupation of temporary or
SR permanent workers shows an important number of laborers,
162 19, of masons, 12, and a more modest number of boys
463 /domestic workers/ and shopkeepers, 8, out of a total of 71 workers. These results corroborate those given in the human study of the escale of Thiès.

S In spite of a relatively close urban neighborhood, the
SR number of inhabitants understanding French is very modest:
162 only 33 understand our language; 15 children out of a hundred
191 go to the nearby French school. These results may appear
[871] deceptive if one considers that all the conditions of the milieu seem favorable for closer contact with the European element.

/6/
edges of the woodlands of Casamance, has reached the Ferlo and the zone of the lateritic cuirasses of the east.

I. The Types of Groundnut Cultivation in Senegal

The very symbol of the product of "trade," the groundnut is essentially cultivated by the autochthonous peasants, who devote to it an important part of their activities.

1. The types of autochthonous cultivation. Whatever the place of the groundnut may be in the system of crops, one always finds, within the framework of the very short agricultural cycle of winter, the same techniques for the preparation of the soil, the same kinds of tillage.

Everywhere in Senegal the traditional technical contrivances are primitive and permit only rather crude tillage. The lopping tool, the rhock, a kind of fork with two prongs, the hilaire, formed by a quite long handle and a flat blade in the shape of an ace of hearts, and the hoe, or daba, constitute the essential equipment.

In the spring, at the end of the dry season, the trees and bushes are topped with the lopping tool to 60 or 70 centimeters from the ground. Only the "Faidherbia," stripped of their leaves in winter, are spared. The branches are burned on the spot; their ashes are the sole fertilizer for the field recovered from the bush. The mutilated and burned trunks, the stumps left in place, give it an unfinished and disorderly appearance. Soon after the first rains, generally in June, one proceeds with the sowing. In the holes /7/ four to five centimeters deep, made with the daba or with the handle of the rhock, the cultivator puts one or two groundnut seeds and then, with the heel, covers them with soil. These holes, made in a row, are generally 30 centimeters apart. In July and August, one proceeds with several weedings and dressings with the daba in order to mellow the soil. In September the last cleaning out of foul grasses is done by hand. When the stalks wither, the shells have reached maturity,

/118 cont./

244 433 242 There is no doubt, however, that the yield per hectare is diminishing and that on much of the land today it is no more than 500-600 kilograms per hectare, instead of the 700-800 kilograms, and even 900, as has been seen sometimes in Sine. The land is becoming exhausted as a result of the lack of fertilizer and the absence of crop rotation. Two other factors likewise come into play: the too primitive native methods of cultivation and the inadequate selection of seeds. The native cultivator continues to work his land with the [412] hilaire, a kind /Pl. II appears here/ /119/ of spade with which he contents himself with scratching the soil. He thus reduces his work too much; he does his dressings badly or inadequately.

It has been demonstrated by the experiments made by the Compagnie française de l'Afrique Occidentale at Latmingué that with mechanical farm implements one could easily double the yield per hectare. On newly cleared land and with these methods, the yield has never been less than 1,000 kilograms and at times has reached 1,500 kilograms per hectare. It is necessary to persuade the native that he will profit by working the land with a little better equipment. The agricultural [654] services are working at this, and it is to be hoped that the more modern cultivation methods will double the yield. This is a critical problem.

243 433 Millet. Millet is likewise a crop on the road to progress. The types cultivated are: small and great millet, or, according to their native names, souna, sanio, bassi, fehla.

In 1927, the cultivated area was 240,000 hectares, with a total production of 119,000 tons, a little more than the needs of the population. In 1925, for a production of 80,000 tons, the population had sowed 210,000 hectares. The surplus production is consumed in the regions bordering Sine-Saloum.

Rice. Different varieties of rice are cultivated, especially in Sine and Bas-Saloum, where the annual rainfall is greater and where the soil is suitable for this crop. One can estimate that 15,000 hectares are planted to rice with a total